



# AUTO TOUR

AAA Washington Travel Services

## *Yamhill County Loop*

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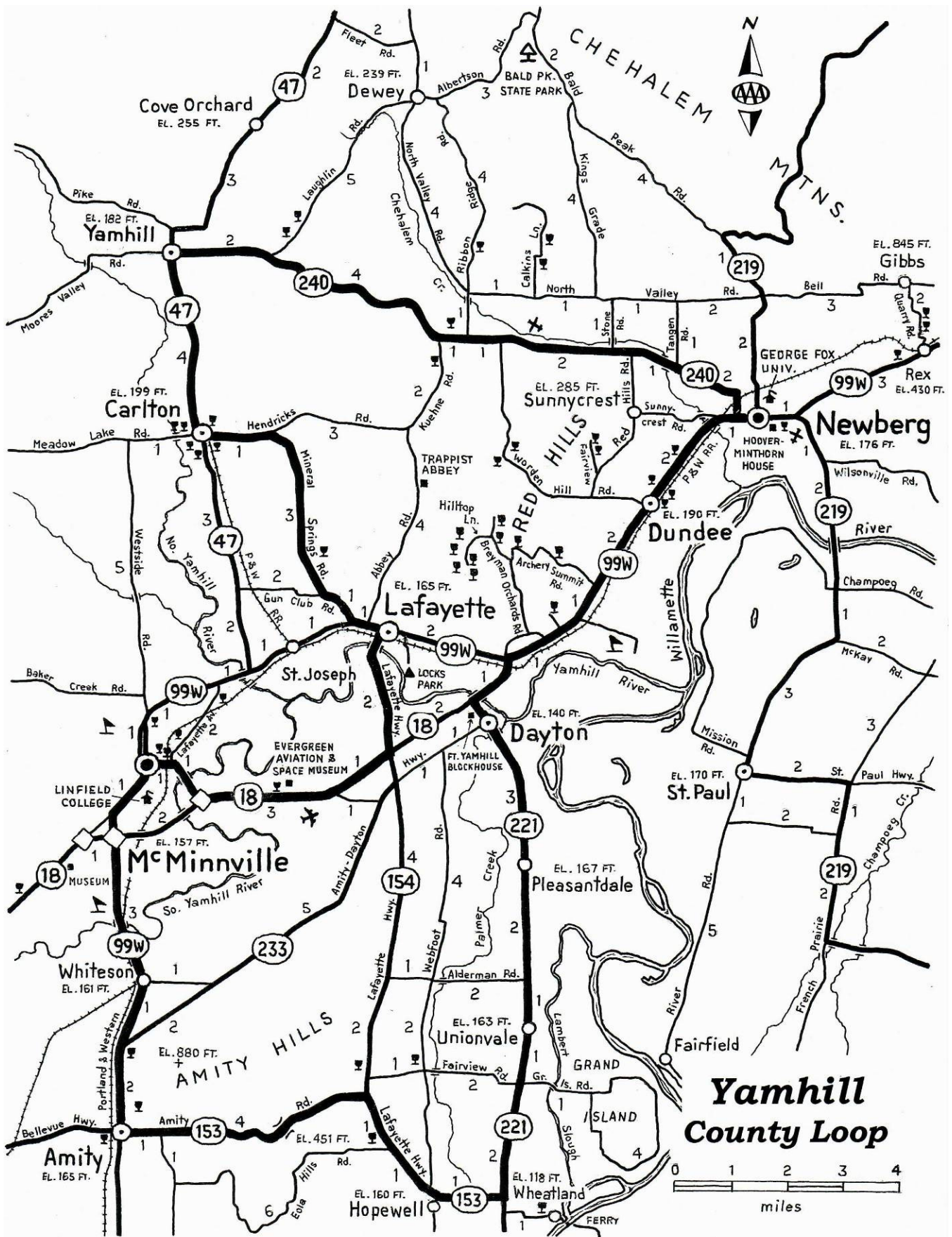
Yamhill County, located in the northwest part of the Beaver State, is a microcosm of western Oregon. Although embracing a mere 718 square miles, it contains surprising geographic diversity. The thickly wooded Coast Range, with peaks upwards of 3,400 feet, forms its western border. Most of the county lies in the Willamette Valley, an attractive mosaic of farmland, wooded tracts and historic towns. Four hilly areas – Chehalem Mountains, Red Hills, Amity Hills and the Eola Hills – rise above the valley floor.



*Autumn's golden blush colors vineyards on Worden Hill Road in the Red Hills of Dundee, one of the world's premier Pinot Noir wine districts [Photo: Oregon State Archives]*

American Indians have lived in the valley for over 8,000 years. The first non-native settlers, trappers working for fur trading companies, arrived after 1814. The name Yamhill probably derives from *Yamhelas*, a tribe in the area. Yamhill County traces its political origins to 1843, when the Provisional Government of Oregon established Yamhill District. After the organization of Oregon Territory in 1848, this became Yamhill County. Originally covering 12,000 square miles, over time it was reduced to its present size as additional counties were carved out.

Starting in the 1840s, thousands of immigrants began traveling overland via the Oregon Trail to homestead the fertile Willamette Valley. Most of Yamhill County's towns date from this early wave of settlement. Agriculture, important since the pioneer period, remains an economic mainstay. Yamhill County produces a wide range of temperate climate crops, including wheat, barley, nursery stock, dairy, nuts, fruit and grapes. The first commercial wineries opened in the 1960s and today Yamhill has more acres in vineyard than any other county in Oregon. With more than 80 wineries and 200 vineyards, this is one of the Pacific Northwest's major wine producing districts. Yamhill's climate and soils are near perfect for the production of Pinot Noir and local vintages have garnered international accolades. The county's wineries also produce Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Chardonnay, Riesling and Gewürztraminer.



Yamhill County has seven federally-recognized American Viticultural Areas (AVAs). The Willamette Valley AVA encompasses the entire county east of the 1,000-foot contour of the Coast Range. Six AVA sub-appellations nest within its confines: Chehalem Mountains, Dundee Hills, Eola-Amity Hills, McMinnville, Ribbon Ridge and the Yamhill-Carlton District. Wine touring is increasingly popular. Winery listings on our auto tours are limited to those establishments open to the public a minimum of five days per week.

Our self-guiding auto tour makes a 60-mile counter-clockwise figure-eight loop through the Willamette Valley portion of Yamhill County. Allow approximately two hours for the drive without stops. A more leisurely itinerary, including stops at wineries, antique shops, museums and other side trips, could take a full day or longer.

Most of the route is excellent two-lane highway – with some multi-lane sections in the McMinnville area and between Dayton and Newberg. The side-trip to Bald Peak follows narrower roads with some steep, winding alignment. The route is driveable year round, although the best weather occurs from late spring into early fall.

Rain constitutes the primary driving hazard. Although precipitation occurs in all months, it’s heaviest from November through March. Snow is relatively infrequent on the valley floor, but is more common at higher elevations. The following table of monthly average temperatures and precipitation observed at McMinnville is representative of conditions along the auto tour route.

**McMINNVILLE** (elev. 157 ft.)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Max. °F	45.9	50.8	55.9	62.2	68.9	75.1	82.9	82.8	76.6	65.0	53.1	46.7	63.8
Min. °F	33.2	35.0	36.5	39.0	43.1	47.1	49.7	49.7	46.6	41.9	37.8	34.5	41.2
Precip. (in.)	6.72	5.23	4.49	2.55	1.87	1.14	0.40	0.56	1.58	3.12	7.02	7.31	41.99
Snow (in.)	3.4	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	1.5	6.8

## 1. Newberg

Our Auto Tour starts at **NEWBERG** (pop. 23,150, alt. 130 ft.), a pleasant small city on Highway 99W, two-dozen miles southwest of Portland. The city spreads across flats north of the Willamette River. The wooded heights of the Chehalem Mountains form its northern backdrop with Parrett Mountain to the east.



*Newberg’s Hoover-Minthorn House is a National Historic Site  
[Photo: Oregon State Archives]*

Newberg traces its beginnings to the 1860s and the central business district and surrounding residential neighborhoods have an established, well tended look typical of the old towns in the Willamette Valley. Its name, applied by the first postmaster in 1869, recalls Neuberg, Germany, where he once lived.

Many of the area’s early settlers were Quakers from the Midwest and Newberg has a strong Quaker tradition. The local university is the only Quaker-affiliated institution of higher learning in the Far West. Newberg’s most famous resident was former President Herbert Hoover, who lived here as a boy for four years in the late 1880s.

Newberg’s downtown area has numerous shops, boutiques, galleries and several wine tasting rooms.

**GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY** adjoins the central district to the northeast. The 85-acre campus is affiliated with the Northwest Meeting of Friends (Quakers). The university originated as Friends Pacific Academy in 1885. The name was changed to Pacific College in 1891. The following year the school moved across town to its present site. It became George Fox College in 1949, honoring the English dissenting preacher who led a 17th-century spiritual awakening that became known as the Society of Friends. University status came in 1996 and today the student body numbers 1,800.



Wood-Mar Hall at George Fox University was built in 1910  
[Photo: Oregon State Archives]

The **Roger and Mildred Minthorn Gallery**, on the first floor of the Hoover Academic Building, hosts changing exhibits of professional and student art. The gallery is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm. The **Murdock Learning Resource Center** has special collections on Quakers, Herbert Hoover (a former alumnus) and Peace Studies.

Two campus buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. **Minthorn Hall** (1887) was originally built at Friends Pacific Academy. When the campus relocated in 1892, it was placed on logs and rolled to the new site. The **Jesse Edwards House** is a stick-style Victorian built in 1883 by its namesake town founder and co-founder of the college. Edwards' descendents donated the house to the university in 1998 and it now serves as the president's residence.

**Hoover-Minthorn House** is in a park setting on the east side of the central business district off SR-99W at 115 S. River Street. Built in 1881 by Newberg's founder Jesse Edwards, this is the oldest home in the city. Dr. Henry Minthorn acquired the residence in 1885 and his nephew, Herbert Hoover lived here until 1889, when the family moved to Salem. The rooms feature period furnishings, historical photographs and Hoover memorabilia. Open Wed.-Sun. afternoons; weekends and by appointment in February and December - phone (503) 538-6629.

The **99W Drive-In**, on the east side of Newberg at SR-99W and Springbrook Road, is one of the few remaining drive-in theaters in the county.

**Newberg Farmers / Artisans Market** is held on School Street, between First and Hancock, Saturdays from 10am-2pm, June through September - phone (503) 537-7190.

For more information on Newberg and vicinity, contact the **Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center**, 415 E. Sheridan St., Newberg, OR 97232 - phone (503) 538-2014 - Web [www.chehalemvalley.org](http://www.chehalemvalley.org).

## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Hot Air Ballooning

- **Vista Balloon Adventures**, offer three-hour hot air balloon trips over wine country (includes one hour aloft) from Sportsman Airpark, 1055 Commerce Parkway, Wed.-Mon. at dawn, Apr.-Nov. Reservations required. Write to 23324 SW Sherk Pl., Sherwood, OR 97140. Phone (503) 625-7385 or (800) 622-2309.

## WINERIES

- **August Cellars** is 4 mi. e. on SR-99W, then n. on Quarry Rd. Tasting room open daily 11am-5pm May-Sept., Fri.-Sun.; 11am-5pm Oct.-Apr. Phone (503) 554-6766.
- **Barking Frog Winery** is 4 mi. e. on SR-99W, then n. on Quarry Rd. Tasting room open daily 10am-5pm. Phone (503) 702-5029.
- **Bishop Creek Cellars** is downtown at 700 E. First St. #200. Open for tasting Tues.-Sun. 1pm-7pm. Phone (503) 476-8686.
- **Rex Hill Vineyards** is 3½-mi. e. on SR-99W. Open for tasting daily 10am-5pm; closed holidays. Phone (503) 538-0666.

## 2. Newberg to Lafayette (13 miles via OR-240)

Highway 240 leads west from Newberg. After leaving the city, the route follows Chehalem Creek through its namesake valley, lying between the Chehalem Mountains to the north and the Red Hills to the south. Ewing Young, one of Oregon's pioneers, settled in the valley in 1834. Its name derives from *Chehalim*, applied in the 1870s to a local band of American Indians. The valley is a patchwork of farms, row crops, fields of nursery stock and pastures.

The most common orchard crop is the delicious hazelnut. A hazelnut orchard is easy to spot – the leaves are dark green and the soil beneath the trees is generally free of vegetation as almost no sunlight penetrates the thick foliage. The harvest starts in late September or early October, when the nuts fall to the ground where they are harvested by hand or machine. Well over 95 percent of the U.S. hazelnut crop comes from the Willamette Valley where the soils and climate are singularly suited to its culture. To more effectively compete with overseas producers, ingenious Oregon growers have created many value added hazelnut products including hazelnut flavored syrups, hazelnut butter, candy covered hazelnuts, even jalapeño-roasted hazelnuts.



*Adelsheim's Bryan Creek vineyard in the foothills of the Chehalem Mountains [Photo: Adelsheim Vineyard]*

At the edges of the valley vineyards dot the south-facing foothills of the Chehalem Mountains to the north and the Red Hills to the south. Blue directional road signs along the highway point to wineries and other attractions on the side roads.

### WINERY

- **Adelsheim Vineyard** is n. on SR-240 via Stone Rd., then w. on North Valley Rd., then n. on Calkins Lane. Tasting room open Wed.-Sun. 11am-4pm (fee), other times by appointment; 90-minute tours by appointment (fee). Phone (503) 538-3652.

The **Ribbon Ridge AVA**, on a southern spur of the Chehalem Mountains, is Oregon's smallest wine growing region, covering less than six square miles. Most of the area's twenty vineyards are dry farmed, due to the coarse, well-drained soils.

### WINERY

- **Aramenta Cellars** is 6 mi. w. of Newberg on SR-240, then n. on Ribbon Ridge Rd., following signs to 17979 NE Lewis Rogers Lane. Tasting room open daily 10:30am-5pm; closed some holidays. Phone (503) 538-7230.

Climbing a ridge of oak and fir clad hills west of the junction with Kuehne Road, SR-240 enters the **Yamhill-Carlton District AVA**. Its well-drained soils are perfect for viticulture and the Coast Range and nearby hills shelter the district, creating a microclimate of lighter rainfall. The bench lands and hillsides nourish some of the finest Pinot Noir vineyards in the world.

### WINERY

- **Willakenzie Estate** is 2 mi. e. of Yamhill on SR-240, then 1½-mi. n. on Laughlin Rd., following signs. Open daily noon 5pm May-Dec.; Fri.-Sun. noon-5pm, rest of year; closed Thanksgiving, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Tasting fee \$5; free 15-30 min. tours by appointment. Phone (503) 662-3280.

Highway 240 drops down to the floor of the valley and the town of **YAMHILL** (pop. 860, alt. 182 ft.). Turn left (south) on SR-47. Settlement of the area dates back to the late 1840s. The post office was established in 1851 and was first called North Yam Hill. The town became a trading center for local farms and prospered as a station stop after the Oregon Central (later Southern Pacific) opened its West Side rail line in 1872. The town was platted in 1889 and incorporated in 1890. It adopted its present name in 1908. Turn-of-the-twentieth-century Victorians nudge up against Yamhill's three-block main street. Take a look at the historic **Lee Laughlin House** at the corner of Main and Laurel.

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## Side Trip – Chehalem Mountains

A drive through the Chehalem Mountains offers an interesting alternative route between Newberg and Yamhill. At Newberg, head east on four-lane SR-99W. Look for the turnoff to **Rex Hill Vineyards** (described under Newberg above). Just beyond, near the crest of a pass through the Chehalems, move into the inside lane and look for the left turn at Quarry Road (small sign). The entire district lies within the **Chehalem Mountains AVA**, with the small **Ribbon Ridge AVA** located on a southern spur.

Quarry Road makes a sharp turn, crosses the railroad tracks, then climbs into the wooded hills. **August Cellars** and **Barking Frog Winery** lie up a steep lane on the right (both described under Newberg).

The Chehalem Mountains are the highest of a series of separate hills and ridges that dot the northern part of the Willamette Valley. They extend from Parrett Mountain east of Newberg northwestward for 15 miles, separating the Chehalem Valley from the Tualatin Valley, both parts of the larger Willamette Valley. After a two-mile climb, Quarry Road intersects with Bell Road at the rural community of **GIBBS** (alt. 845 ft.). Turn west on Bell Road. Views extend south into the valley as Bell Road gradually descends the southern flanks of the Chehalems. After three miles, turn right on SR-219. Highway 219 climbs steeply into the wooded heights on a winding alignment with several 20 mph curves.



*Looking west from the summit of Bald Peak to the Coast Range on the horizon. [Photo: Oregon State Archives]*

A mile up, turn left on Bald Peak Road, which follows the crest of the Chehalem Mountains northwestward. Views extend alternatively south and north across the valley lowlands. Trophy homes nestle amid the oak and fir woods.

Five miles beyond SR-219 is **Bald Peak State Park**, crowning the highest point in the Chehalems (elev. 1,619 ft.). The grassy hillside of the 26-acre park offers picnic tables and a short trail through the Douglas firs. Panoramic views encompass five snowcapped volcanoes in the Cascade Range (from north to south: Rainier, St. Helens, Adams, Hood and Jefferson). *Note – the park has no potable water.* A mile north of the park, turn left on Albertson Road. This gravel road winds down the steep western flanks of Bald Peak, passing several Christmas tree farms.

At the bottom of the grade we enter the narrow Upper Chehalem Valley. Wooded ridges flank its grassy fields. A sign at the junction with North Valley Road marks the site of **DEWEY** (alt. 239 ft.), named for Admiral George Dewey, who led the American victory at the Battle of Manila Bay in the Spanish-American War. A post office served area residents from 1898 to 1904. Nothing remains of the community.

Laughlin Road leads southwest, climbing a ridge with patches of woods and scattered vineyards. **Willakenzie Estate** (described on page 5) sits amid vineyards 3½-miles along this scenic drive. Vineyards occupy hills rather than the valley floor to take advantage of better drained soils and microclimates. On still, clear nights, cold air settles on the valley floor, leaving the hillsides warmer. Such temperature inversions protect crops from frost damage.

Laughlin Road intersects with SR-240, two miles east of the town of Yamhill.

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### 3. Through Carlton to Lafayette & McMinnville (via OR-47 & OR-99W)

Highway 47 runs south from Yamhill between orchards and fields of grain and seed grass. **CARLTON** (pop. 1,790, alt. 199 ft.) is a popular stop on wine tour itineraries. The hills to the west, north and east are part of the Yamhill-Carlton District AVA and there are a cluster of wineries in town. The Oregon Central Railroad (Southern Pacific) established a station here in 1874, naming it for the pioneer Carls family. A prosperous community arose with wide streets, comfortable Victorian homes and a substantial business district. Many of these buildings have been well cared for and today house wineries, tasting rooms, antique shops, boutiques and cafés.

#### WINERIES AND TASTING ROOMS

- **Cana's Feast Winery**, 750 W. Lincoln Street, is open daily 11am-5pm. Phone (503) 852-0002.
- **Carlton Winemakers Studio** is on the north side of town, w. of SR-47 on Lincoln St. at 801 N. Scott St. The studio houses ten artisan wineries. Open daily 11am-5pm, Mar.-Dec.; Thurs.-Sun., 11am-5pm and by appointment rest of year; closed some holidays. Tours available by appointment. Phone (503) 852-6100.
- **Solena Cellars** is at 213 Pine Street. Open Thurs.-Sun. noon-5pm and daily by appointment. Phone (503) 852-0082.
- **The Tasting Room in Carlton**, at the corner of Main and Pine streets, is housed in the turn-of-the-twentieth century Carlton Bank Building. Open Thurs.-Mon. 11am-5pm or by appointment. Phone (503) 852-6733.
- **Tyrus Evan** is in the former Southern Pacific Depot at 120 N. Pine Street. Open daily 11am-6pm Memorial Day weekend Labor Day; daily 11am-5pm, rest of year. Phone (503) 852-7010.

Follow Main Street through central Carlton; this leads out into the countryside and becomes Hendricks Road. A mile east of Carlton, turn right (south) on Mineral Springs Road. Grassy fields and orchards line the route.

#### WINERY

- **Anne Amie Vineyards**, lies on a hillside at 6580 NE Mineral Springs Rd. Open daily 10am-5pm Mar.-Dec.; Sat.-Sun. 10am-5pm and by appointment rest of year; closed holidays. Phone (800) 864-2991.

Mineral Springs Road curves into Gun Club Road (bear left at junction) and continues south to SR-99W. Turn left (east) onto the highway which leads into historic **LAFAYETTE** (pop. 3,925, alt. 165 ft.). Dating back to 1846, this is the oldest community in Yamhill County. The first wagon trains of 1843-44 brought in the initial settlers. The site became known as Yam Hill Falls, but in 1847 town founder Joel Perkins named it Lafayette for his Indiana hometown. The townsite is on an old Indian trail near a spot that offered an easy crossing of the Yamhill River. By the early 1850s, Lafayette was one of the most prosperous communities in Oregon Territory. It served as the county seat until 1889, when residents voted to move the government to McMinnville.

**Yamhill County Historical Museum**, 605 Market Street, houses historical displays in three buildings. The museum is open Wed. and Fri-Sat. 10am-4pm, or by appointment; phone (503) 864-2308.



Concrete lock walls at Lafayette Locks County Park  
[Photo: Yamhill County Parks]

Two parks are of historic interest. **Terry Park**, 4 blocks south of SR-99W on Madison Street (Lafayette Highway) is the location of Yamhill Falls. Here the old Indian trail crossed the Yamhill River. The park has several picnic tables among the trees.

**Lafayette Locks County Park**, ½-mile east on SR-99W, then ½-mile south on Locks Road, is the site of navigation locks on the Yamhill River, built in 1898-1900 to provide year round river transportation to McMinnville. They were shut down in 1954, due to declining traffic. In 1965 the dam was dynamited and the lock doors were removed to restore fish runs on the Yamhill. The remains are on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. The 7.1-acre park offers a nature trail, picnic sites and a playground.

Another area point of interest is the **Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, 3 miles north of Lafayette on Bridge Street (becomes Abbey Road). The monastery is in gorgeous countryside, nestled among woods on the western slopes of the fabled Red Hills wine growing district. The Cistercian Order, also known as Trappists, was founded in 1098 and takes its name from the Abbey of Citeaux, near Dijon, France. Cistercian monks are devoted to a life of contemplation in a cloistered atmosphere. The present abbey was founded in 1948 in New Mexico, relocating to Oregon in 1955. Among the monk's enterprises is a bakery that sells fruitcake and ginger date-nut cake to the public. For information phone (800) 294-0105.

Lafayette is also a popular antiquing center. The largest venue is **Lafayette Schoolhouse Mall**, on the east side of town at 748 Highway 99W. The three-story, 1912-vintage former school features more than 100 dealers and is billed as Oregon's largest permanent antique display. The mall is open daily 10am-5pm - phone (503) 864-2720. There are several other smaller antique shops in town, scattered along Third Street (SR-99W).

To continue our auto tour, head south from Lafayette on Madison Street (Lafayette Highway), which intersects with SR-99W in the middle of town. Passing Terry Park, we cross the Yamhill River and are quickly in farming country. Hazelnut orchards flank the road. Two miles south turn right (west) on SR-18.

**McMinnville Municipal Airport** lies south of the highway. At the west end of this general aviation field is the headquarters of Evergreen International Aviation, a global aviation services company. One of its subsidiaries, Evergreen International Airlines, operates charter and scheduled cargo flights with a fleet of a dozen Boeing 747 aircraft (these flights do not use this airport).



*The Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum houses the Hughes H-4 Hercules, popularly known as the Spruce Goose.*

The **EVERGREEN AVIATION AND SPACE MUSEUM** is across from the airport on the north side of SR-18. The museum houses an impressive collection of more than 80 civilian and military aircraft plus aviation exhibits. Among the aircraft are representations of the first, largest and fastest planes ever built. The unique Hughes Flying Boat H-4 Hercules is centerpiece of the aviation display. Its wingspan of 319 ft. 11 in. makes this the largest aircraft ever built. Designed by Howard Hughes in the mid-1940s as a troop and materiel transport, it flew only once. Its nickname, *Spruce Goose*, belies the fact that the airframe and surfaces consist mostly of laminated birch. A Titan II SLV missile is the signature display of the Space Museum, which features missiles, rockets, space capsules, replicas of lunar rovers and space artifacts, including the fabled Willamette Meteorite. The museum's IMAX theatre shows films on the giant-screen in high-resolution format. The museum complex is open daily 9am-5pm; closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The museums and IMAX Theatre can be visited separately, or by combination ticket. For information phone (503) 434-4180.

## WINERY

- **Evergreen Vineyards**, adjacent to the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum at 500 Captain Michael Smith King Way, is open for free wine tasting daily 11am-5pm; closed some holidays. Phone (866) 434-4818.

Highway 18 widens to four-lane and enters the outskirts of Yamhill County's largest urban area. Take the first McMinnville exit, which leads into the heart of the city.

## 4. McMinnville

**McMINNVILLE** (pop. 32,760, alt. 157 ft.) is an attractive small city with a vibrant downtown and scenic college campus. Settled in the early 1850s, McMinnville was named by pioneer settler William T. Newby for his Tennessee hometown. Newby opened a grist mill, the town's first business venture. By the mid-1860s it counted 300 residents; this rose to over 1,400 by 1900. McMinnville's rail connections and access by barge via the Yamhill River made it a central shipping point for the area's agricultural bounty.



*Third Street is the heart of McMinnville's business district  
[Photo: McMinnville Downtown Association]*

The **DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT** stretches along tree-lined SE Third Street from the railroad tracks eight blocks west to **City Park** on Adams Street (SR-99W). It comprises 100 buildings of historical and architectural interest, most built of brick between 1885 and 1912.

Among the architectural highlights are the Craftsman-style Southern Pacific Depot (1912); McMinnville Bank Building (1885) and the adjacent Schilling Building (1884), thought to be the oldest brick building in the district; Cozine House (1892); Cook's Hotel (1886); and the Oregon Hotel (1905). The latter was renovated in 1999 and re-opened as **McMenamins Hotel Oregon**, featuring a roof-top bar. Today these structures house an eclectic collection of shops, galleries, boutiques and eateries and the entire district is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Maps outlining a self-guided walking tour of the district are available from the **McMinnville Downtown Association**, 105 NE Third Street, McMinnville, OR 97128 - phone (503) 472-3605.



*Pioneer Hall (1882), the oldest building on the campus of Linfield College, overlooks the lawns and spreading trees of Oak Grove.*

**LINFIELD COLLEGE** spreads over an attractive, 193-acre oak-shaded campus on the south side of town east of SR-99W. One of the oldest institutes of higher learning in the Far West, Linfield traces its beginnings back to a Baptist school founded in 1849. The college was chartered in 1858. Its name honors Rev. George Fisher Linfield, a Baptist minister whose widow donated property to the school. The student body, including a nursing school in Portland, numbers 2,100.

**Pioneer Hall** (1882) is the oldest structure on campus and is on the National Historic Registry. It once housed the entire college. Today its upper floors contain a women's dormitory; the lower floor features a dining hall and kitchen.

**James F. Miller Fine Art Gallery**, on the south side of campus at Keck Circle and Library Court, showcases rotating contemporary works by students and professional artists.

**Yamhill Valley Heritage Center** is southwest of the city at SR-18 and Durham Lane. The center houses an impressive collection of antique farm equipment. Its exhibits and artifacts document more than 150 years of settlement and farming in the region. The museum is open limited hours – phone (503) 472-5130.

**Gallery Theater**, NE 2<sup>nd</sup> & Ford streets, is the local community theater and performing arts venue - phone (503) 472-2227.

**McMinnville Farmers Market** is held downtown on NE Cowles Street between Second and Third, 1:30-6:30pm, from May through October - phone (503) 472-3605.

### **WINERIES AND TASTING ROOMS**

- **Eyrie Vineyards**, 935 NE 10th Avenue, is open Weds.-Sun. noon-5pm. Phone (888) 440-4970.
- **Panther Creek Cellars** is at 455 NE Irvine Street. Open daily noon-5pm. Phone (503) 472-8080.
- **R. Stuart & Co.** is at 845 NE Fifth Street, Open Mon.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Phone (503) 472-6990.
- **Stone Wolf Vineyards**, 2155 NE Lafayette Avenue, is open daily noon-5pm. Phone (503) 434-9025.
- **Willamette Valley Vineyards Wine Center**, 300 NW Third Street, is open daily 10am-7pm. The center includes displays about the valley's wine industry and AVAs. Phone (503) 883-9012.

For more information contact the **McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce**, 417 NW Adams Street, McMinnville, OR 97128; phone (503) 472-6196.

## 5. South Loop through Amity to Dayton (via Highways 99W, 221 & 18)

From McMinnville, follow SR-99W south. After crossing the South Yamhill River we skirt the village of **WHITESON** (pop. 100, alt. 161 ft.). Its name honors Henry White, who granted land to the railroad in the mid 1870s. A post office was established in 1889 under the name of Whites. The present name was adopted in the following year. The town once had two railroads. Tree farms in the area specialize in Christmas trees.



*Coelho Winery is a popular stop in Amity  
[Photo: Coelho Winery]*

**AMITY** (pop. 1,495, alt. 165 ft.) traces its founding to the first wave of pioneer settlers in the late 1840s. Its name commemorates an amicable settlement of rival claims regarding the location of a school. The post office was established in 1853 and rail service began in 1879. Amity was an early wheat farming and sheep ranching center. Wheat from Joseph Watt's pioneer farm, exported to England, was Oregon's first foreign agricultural venture. Highway 99W, the town's main street, features several blocks of commercial buildings. Amity celebrates a **Daffodil Festival** in early April and there are a number of wineries in the area.

The **Brigitte Monastery of Our Lady of Consolation** is 4 miles southwest via Bellevue Highway and Broadmead Road, following signs. This is the sole remaining monastery of an order dating back to the fourteenth century.

St. Bridget (ca. 1303-1373), a Swedish ascetic, founded the Order of St. Saviour, later known as the Brigittines, in 1370. The community includes eight brothers, who are dedicated to a life of prayer and work. One of their endeavors is a confectionary and the monastery is noted for its gourmet fudge and truffles – you must try the raspberry truffles. The gift shop is open daily. Visitors are welcome to stroll the grounds and visit the chapel. For information phone (503) 835-8080.

### WINERIES

- **Amity Vineyard** is east of town at 18150 Amity Vineyards Road. Open daily 11am-6pm, June-Oct; daily noon-5pm rest of year. Phone (888) 264-8966.
- **Coelho Winery** is one block west of SR-99W at 111 Fifth Street. Open daily for tasting (fee) 11am-5pm, Apr. to mid Dec.; Fri.-Sun. 11am-5pm, rest of year; closed Jan. 1, Easter, Thanksgiving, Dec. 25. Free tours by appointment. Phone (503) 835-9305.
- **Kristin Hill Winery** is north of Amity on SR-99W, then east on SR-233 at 3330 SE Amity-Dayton Hwy. Open daily noon-5pm, Mar.-Dec.; Sat.-Sun. noon-5pm, Jan.-Feb.; closed holidays. Phone (503) 835-0850.

In central Amity, turn east on SE Nursery Avenue. This becomes Amity Road, which climbs through a saddle between the Amity Hills to the north and the Eola Hills to the south. The landscape is a pleasing patchwork of fields mixed with groves of oak and fir.

Elevations above 250 feet are included in the **Eola-Amity Hills AVA**, established in 2006. The appellation, including 30 wineries and 70 vineyards, lies directly east of the Van Duzer Gap, a low elevation pass in the Coast Range. Cool ocean breezes blow through the gap, dropping temperatures on warm summer afternoons. This climatic phenomenon helps firm up grape acids. The district's well-drained soils produce small fruit with great concentration. Eola-Amity Hills specializes in cool-climate varieties such as Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Viognier, Dolcetto and Syrah.

Crossing the 450-foot divide, the road quickly descends to the valley floor. At the stop sign, turn right (south) on Lafayette Highway. Orchards and fields of grass seed line the road and there are several wineries in the area.

### WINERIES

- **Methven Family Vineyards** is n. of the Amity Road on Lafayette Hwy. at 11400 Westland Lane. Open Wed.-Sun. 11-5, Phone (503) 580-1320.

**HOPEWELL** (pop. 75, alt. 160 ft.) is a cluster of residences and a few businesses just south of a turn in the Lafayette Highway near the eastern edge of the Eola Hills. Its name reflects pioneer optimism. One of these early settlers was George Kirby Gay (1797-1882), who took up farming in the vicinity in 1838. His residence (no longer standing) was the first brick house in the Oregon Country. Gay participated in the so-called Wolf Meetings (1843) at Champoege that established the Provisional Government of Oregon. Another noted resident of Hopewell was Gay's great-grandson Johnnie Ray (1927-1990), a popular singer in the 1950s.

A mile east of Hopewell, Lafayette Highway meets SR-221. **WHEATLAND** (pop. 50, alt. 118 ft.) is just south on SR-221, then a mile east. Farms specializing in nursery stock and fruit ring this scattered pioneer settlement facing the Willamette

River. Its name recalls its early role as a wheat shipping point. A cable ferry operates across the river. On the opposite bank is the site of the **Willamette Mission**, established by Jason Lee in 1834. Ten years later Lee moved his mission ten miles upstream to a site that became the nucleus of Salem.

Highway 221 leads north through fertile farmland. The scattered hamlet of **UNIONVALE** (pop. 20, alt. 163 ft.) sits amid fields of nursery stock. Just south of here a road branches east to Grand Island, a 4,000-acre tract formed by Lambert Slough, a narrow channel of the Willamette. The island's rich soils produce bountiful crops.

North of Unionvale, SR-221 runs between fields of nursery stock, blueberries, vegetables, wheat and orchards.

**DAYTON** (pop. 2,495, alt., 140 ft.) traces its roots to the late 1840s when pioneers Andrew Smith and Joel Palmer homesteaded here. Its name recalls Smith's Ohio hometown. A restoration of **Fort Yamhill Blockhouse**, stands in **Courthouse Square**, Dayton's central park. Originally built in 1856 in western Yamhill County, the structure housed the headquarters of the Grand Ronde Indian Agency. It was rebuilt in Dayton in 1911 as a memorial to Joel Palmer, who served as Superintendent of Indian Affairs from 1853 to 1857. A map sign in the square lists 47 historic sites in Dayton ranging from 1850 to 1936.



*Fort Yamhill Blockhouse*



← *The Joel Palmer House, built in the 1850s, is one of the Beaver State's finest restored historic homes. It's named for one of Dayton's pioneer settlers.*

A block of historic brick buildings face the square. The shuttered brick **Baptist Church**, on the north flank, dates from 1886. Surrounding blocks contains residences dating from the turn of the 20th century, most in the Victorian style. Dayton's oldest surviving structure is the **Joel Palmer House**, 6 blocks west of the square. Built in the mid 1850s, the home has been meticulously restored and presently functions as a fine dining restaurant.

Highway 221 meets SR-18 just north of Dayton. After crossing the Yamhill River, SR-18 joins Highway 99W. Ahead lies one of Oregon's most famous wine growing districts.

## 6. Red Hills of Dundee

The **Red Hills of Dundee**, north and west of Highway 99W, take their name from iron-rich reddish soils. The soils are deep and well drained. The micro-climate features warmer overnight temperatures and less frost and fog than the adjoining valley floor. Early vintners felt this district could rank among the world's great cool-climate wine growing regions. The first vineyard was planted in 1965. By 1979 Pinot Noir from the hills was earning international recognition at prestigious French wine competitions. Promoters labeled this the New World's Burgundy.

The **Red Hills AVA**, established in 2005, includes areas above the 200-foot contour. Today it contains 1,700 acres of vineyard and more than 25 wineries. Pinot Noir is king of the hills. Other varieties produced include Pinot Gris, White Riesling, Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Meunier, Melon, Muscat Ottonel, Müller-Thurgau and Dolcetto.

You don't have to be an enophile to appreciate this handsome landscape of vineyards alternating with patches of woodland. Its country lanes are perfect for touring. The hills offer pleasant views extending across the valley farmland to the distant snowcapped Cascade volcanoes.

There are two major wine touring areas. The **Southern Red Hills** area, accessible primarily by Archery Summit or Breyman Orchards roads, contains a dense cluster of wineries. To reach this area from northbound SR-99W, take the first left beyond SR-18 junction. Return southbound on SR-99W and just beyond SR-18 junction watch for winery signs on right. This leads to Breyman Orchards Road. Follow this uphill and take Hilltop Lane, which curves off to the left. Retrace the route downhill to Archery Summit Road; turn left and follow down to SR-99W [*Note: most of Archery Summit Road is gravel*].



*Sokol Blosser's vineyards lie on the southern slopes of the Red Hills.*



*Oregon wine pioneer Dick Erath searched the West Coast for the best place to grow Pinot Noir. In 1967 he chose the Red Hills of Dundee. Today, the estate vineyards of Erath Winery cover 118 acres.*

### **WINERIES – SOUTHERN RED HILLS**

- **Archery Summit** is w. of SR-99W at 18599 NE Archery Summit Road. Open daily 10am-4pm; closed holidays. Tours by reservation several days in advance (fee); tasting fee. Phone (503) 864-4300 or (800) 732-8822.
- **De Pont Cellars** is at 17545 NE Archery Summit Rd.. Open Tue.-Sat. 11am-5pm. Phone (503) 864-3698.
- **Domaine Drouhin Oregon** is at 6750 NE Archery Summit Rd. Open Wed.-Sun 11am-4pm; closed Thanksgiving weekend and Dec. 24-Jan. 1. Tasting fee; Guided 60-min. tours by appointment (fee). Phone (503) 864-2700.
- **Domaine Serene** is at 6555 Hilltop Ln. Open Wed.-Sun. 11am-4pm; closed some holidays. Phone (503) 864-4600 or (800) 864-6555.
- **Sokol Blosser Winery** is off SR-99W at 5000 Sokol Blosser Ln.. Open daily 10am-4pm. Phone (503) 864-2282.
- **Vista Hills Vineyard**, 6475 Hilltop Ln., is open Wed.-Sun. noon-6:30pm. Phone (503) 864-2154.
- **White Rose Wines**, 6250 Hilltop Ln., is open daily 11am-5pm, Memorial Day-Thanksgiving; Sat.-Sun. 11am-5pm rest of year. Phone (503) 864-2328.
- **Wine Country Farm Cellars** is at 6855 Breyman Orchards Rd. Open daily 11am-5pm, Memorial Day-Thanksgiving; Sat.-Sun. 11am-5pm rest of year. Phone (503) 864-3446.
- **Winter's Hill Vineyard**, 6475 Hilltop Ln., is open Wed.-Sun. noon-6:30pm. Phone (503) 864-2154.

The second wine touring area is in Dundee and the adjoining **Northern Red Hills**. There are a half dozen wineries and tasting rooms in town. Worden Hill Road (Ninth Street in Dundee) leads west into the hills and several wineries – following signs. Fairview Drive branches north, leading to more wineries. **Crabtree Park**, 2 west of town on Worden Hill Road, is a nice spot for a picnic. Facilities include picnic tables, a playground and trails.

**DUNDEE** (pop. 3,060, alt. 190 ft.), commanding the northern gateway to the Red Hills, has prospered from wine touring offering tasting rooms, shops and a variety of dining venues. A strip of commercial development lines Highway 99W and newer residential neighborhoods climb the foothills at the western edge of town. Much of the town is relatively new and unlike the older communities in Yamhill County, Dundee lacks a cohesive core of historic buildings. Settled in the early 1880s, its name recalls the Scottish hometown of early railroad promoter William Reid. Dundee is one of the centers of Oregon's hazelnut industry and there are several processors in the area.

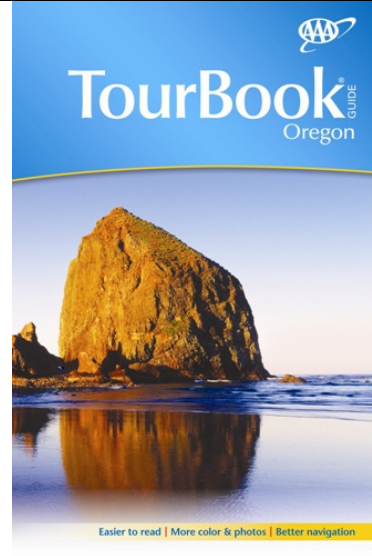

Dundee can experience heavy traffic during peak travel times. This occurs as Highway 99W narrows to two lanes through town, where there are several signals. Traffic can slow to a crawl. Backups tend to develop Friday afternoons (southbound) and Sunday afternoons (northbound). Plans to build a bypass are mired in controversy.

**Dundee Farmers Market** is on Highway 99W and Seventh Street; open Sundays 10am-2pm, May-October. For information phone (503) 522-3206.

**WINERIES –DUNDEE AND NORTHERN RED HILLS**

- **Argyle Winery** is in Dundee at 691 Hwy. 99W. Open daily 11am-5pm; closed major holidays. Phone (503) 538-8520.
- **A to Z Wineworks** is in Dundee at 990 N. Hwy. 99W. Open daily 11am-4pm; tasting fee. Phone (503) 538-4881.
- **Dobbes Family Estate** is in Dundee at 240 SE Fifth St. Open daily 11am-6pm. Phone (800) 566-8143.
- **Duck Pond Cellars** is n. of Dundee at 23145 Hwy. 99W. Open daily 10am-5pm, May-Sept.; daily 11am-5pm, rest of year; closed Thanksgiving; Dec. 24-25, Jan. 1. Tours by reservation (fee). Phone (503) 538-3199 or (800) 437-3213.
- **Erath Winery** is w. of Dundee at 9409 NE Worden Hill Rd. Open daily 11am-5pm; closed major holidays. Phone (800) 539-9463.
- **Four Graces**, n. of Dundee, off SR-99W at 9605 NE Fox Farm Rd., is open daily 10am-5pm. Phone (800) 245-2950.
- **Lange Estate Winery and Vineyard** is w. of Dundee via Worden Hill Rd. and Fairview Dr., at 18380 NE Buena Vista Dr. Open daily 11am-5pm. Phone (503) 538-6476.
- **Torii Mor** is w. of Dundee via Worden Hill Rd. at 18325 NE Fairview Dr. Open daily 11am-5pm; closed Thanksgiving, Dec. 25, Jan. 1. Phone (503) 538-2279 or (800) 839-5004.

Multi-lane Highway 99W leads north from Dundee, crosses Chehalem Creek and enters Newberg, completing our Auto Tour.

 <p><b>TourBook</b> Oregon</p> <p>Easier to read   More color &amp; photos   Better navigation</p>	<p>Be sure to pick up the latest edition of the <b>AAA Oregon TourBook</b> at your local office!</p> <p>Redesigned for 2012, the <i>TourBook</i> contains updated information on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attraction Pricing &amp; Hours of Operation</li> <li>• Exclusive Diamond Ratings for AAA-Approved Lodging &amp; Restaurants</li> </ul> <p>Best of all, <i>TourBooks</i> are FREE for members!</p> <p><b>Download AAA Apps for Android &amp; iPhone</b> Discounts, Roadside Assistance &amp; TripTik Maps Available – Click <a href="http://www.aaawa.com">www.aaawa.com</a> to Download</p>	
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**KEEPING INFORMED ON THE ROAD**

Here is a listing of area radio stations . . .

**McMINNVILLE**  
KLYC – 1260AM  
KSLC – 90.3FM

**NEWBERG**  
KFOX – 530AM

**PORTLAND**  
(selected stations)  
KPOJ – 620AM  
KXL – 750AM  
KEX – 1190AM  
KOPB – 91.5FM (NPR)

**SALEM**  
(selected stations)  
KYKN – 1430AM  
KBZY – 1490AM